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necessary changes. The happy departure is that the Planning Commission, which employed Mr. Nolen, puts in the footnotes their agreement or disagreement with his main recommendations, thus in effect making Mr. Nolen's personal report in a true sense the report of the Commission.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE LAWYER-STATESMAN. By John T. Richard. Pp. vii, 260. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916.

To those who are accustomed to look upon the Great Emancipator as a great lawyer and a great statesman, this book, while interesting and instructive, performs no great service; to the many who have been led to doubt his ability as a lawyer and his high standing in the legal profession, this book will prove little short of a revelation. It is written with one purpose in view, to disprove the statements so often made that Abraham Lincoln was but a mediocre lawyer and to demonstrate that on the contrary he was possessed of all the mental and moral attributes that go to make a distinguished lawyer and that he met with that success in practice which is only acquired by the foremost members of the bar. The author, himself a lawyer, held a brief when he wrote, and it is safe to say that he has proved his case beyond a doubt.

Logically, the book begins with Lincoln's legal training. Next follows a complete account of his actual practice in the courts of Illinois, both *nisi prius* and appellate, and in the Supreme Court of the United States, as far as such a record can be completed from the sources that are now available. Mr. Richards proves from the cases themselves and from the contemporary and subsequent tributes of others, that Mr. Lincoln possessed all the technical skill, the searching analysis, the frankness and the candor which, coupled with his unusual ability to state principles with the utmost clearness and simplicity, stamped him a real leader of the profession. This is supported by a demonstration of the logical and lawyer-like attitude which Lincoln, the president, took toward all constitutional questions that confronted him in that high office. There is also a chapter in which Mr. Richards defends and explains Lincoln's attitude toward the Dred Scott decision, which position has been called by some a criticism of the judiciary. The book ends with a tribute to the man as an orator.

Probably that which is of most practical value in the work is a complete list and digest of every case in which Lincoln appeared in the appellate court of Illinois and in the Supreme Court. Another important contribution is the information the author gives in regard to the precise time of Lincoln's admission to the bar. The entire work represents a great amount of research and investigation, and helps to throw new light upon the greatest figure in our American history.

L. B. S.